

THIS ISSUE

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SPASTICS NEWS

JUNE 1967 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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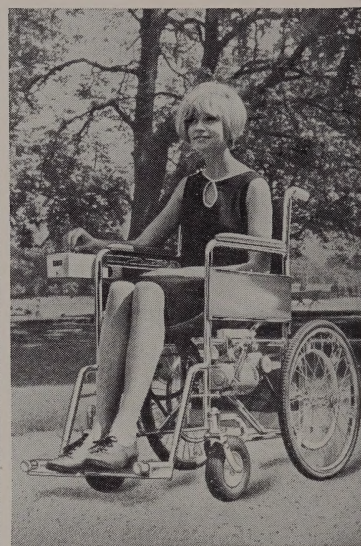
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SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

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IN THIS ISSUE

Staff Changes at Park Crescent ..	2	Aids and Appliances	19
The Spastics Society and The Football Pools Case by J. A. Loring ..	3	Spastics Cards: Another Bumper Collection	20
News and Views	4	S.O.S. (Stars Organisation for Spastics) News	21
A Mother's Courage by Pat Carr ..	6	AT HOME—Mr. Hawkins' Training pays off by Therese Appleby and	
Taking the Strain by Mrs. E. M. Milnes	9	ABROAD—Mr. Boydell shows the French the way	22
Wessex Region Conference ..	11	Book Review by Leslie Gardner ..	23
West Region Conference	12	Employment News and M.E.V. Itineraries	24
Round the Centres:		Letters to the Editor	25
1. A Happy 'Family' at Ponds by Anne Plummer	13	Local Group Provision	27
2. Work and Play at Croydon by J. Eve	17		

Front Cover Picture: 'Miss Australia Charity Queen', 19-year-old Lynette McCann (left) and 'Miss Victoria', 21-year-old Pauline Veray, on the balcony overlooking the play area at Meldreth (Mr. G. Crabb in the distance!). They were awarded the titles for their beauty, charm and their charity work, and the visit to England is part of their prize.

(Photo: Cambridge News)

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1 Tel. MUSEum 5020

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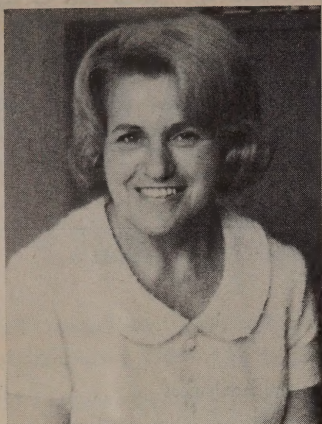
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Mrs. C. A. Clifton

IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE of consolidating the Society's relations with local authorities, Mrs. C. A. Clifton, formerly Schools and Centres Secretary, has been assigned to the new senior post of Principal Officer (Liaison with Local Authorities). Mrs. Clifton, who joined the Society in March, 1957, as Projects Secretary, has had a long experience of this type of work and, with her contacts in the field of local government, it is hoped that she will be able to maintain and extend their support for the Society's schools and centres.

With costs going up as each new unit is established and the immediate income prospects being far from rosy, a substantial reduction in the Society's future rate of expansion is practically inevitable.

As a result of this appointment, the opportunity has been taken of streamlining the administration of the department, and in future, the present head of the Education Department, Mr. J. Le Prevost, will be in charge of schools with the title: Education Officer. The present Child Care Adviser, Mr. F. G. Mahoney, will be his right-hand man as Deputy Education Officer. The department will be concerned too with the substantial number of child care and pre-school units now operated by Local Authorities.

At the same time, Mr. S. T. Allman, at present Deputy Social Work and Employment Secretary, has been promoted to the new post of Head of Centres with the title: Centres Secretary. His special concern will be with the residential centres, hostels, hotels, family help units and industrial centres. Mr. N. K. W. Summers will continue as Deputy Centres Secretary of the new department with a special interest in the Society's residential centres.

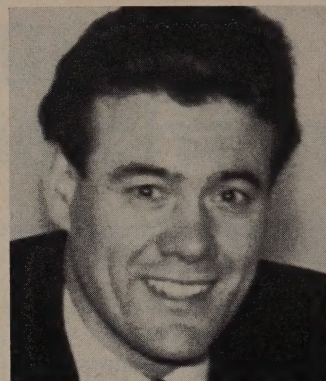
These changes—which took effect as from May 1st,—have been made within the framework of the existing staff and it has been unnecessary, therefore, to take on additional personnel.

Staff Changes at Park Crescent



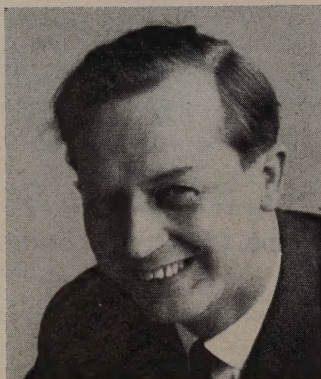
John Le Prevost

Mr. Le Prevost has been connected since January 1962 with the development of the Society's educational and staff training policy, especially with the Further Education Centres of Dene Park and Oakwood, and with the Meldreth Training School. He took a degree in modern languages at Cambridge, where he also qualified as a teacher. After war service, he was eleven years in the Ministry of Education, Singapore, and then taught for five years in England before joining the Society.



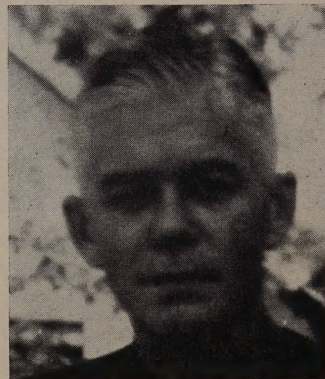
Sidney Allman

Mr. Allman, who joined the Society in September 1959, has been closely connected with the industrial and training centres, especially the Birmingham Sheltered Workshop and the extensions at Sherrards. He is a B.A., and holds the Diploma in Public and Social Admin. (Oxon) and M.I.P.M. He has been the Employment Officer and Deputy Social Work and Employment Secretary.



Norman Summers

Mr. Summers came to the Society from the Derwen Cripples Training College and Rehabilitation Centre, Oswestry. He has two daughters, one of whom has just celebrated her twenty-first birthday, and he lives in a Staff House at Meldreth Training Centre, where his wife, who is a S.R.N., is matron.



Hugh Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham who has now come to Park Crescent as Assistant to the Projects Secretary, Mr. M. Stopford, has been the popular R.O. for the South-East since 1961. He was formerly in the Colonial Service in Malaya and Uganda, and now lives with his wife and family at Horley in Surrey.

The Spastics Society and the Football Pools Case

by

JAMES LORING (*Deputy Director*)

YOU WILL HAVE no doubt read or heard about the 'betting duty' case which is now before the Courts. It is between the Commissioners of Customs and Excise and Top Ten Promotions Ltd. It has probably given rise to a great deal of discussion and it is important that readers of SPASTICS NEWS should have the essential details.

The Spastics Society derives an important part of its income from the Friends of Spastics League which in turn obtains it from competitions run by Regional Pool Promotions Ltd. of Bristol. In 1961, Regional Pool Promotions Ltd. made an agreement with the trustees of the Friends of Spastics League to run weekly pools competitions and to act as the governing body of the Spastics League Club. Under this agreement 2d. out of every 1s. subscribed went as a donation to the Friends of Spastics League who in turn made it over to The Spastics Society. As the law then stood only the stake money (2½d. of the remaining 10d.) was liable to betting duty. The remaining 7½d. went to provide benefits for many millions of club members and also to pay the cost of running the competitions.

Re-organisation in 1964

When the 1964 Finance Act sought to make club subscriptions liable for duty, it was realised that this might apply to the hitherto duty-free 7½d. of the weekly 1s. subscription and Regional Pool Promotions quite properly reorganised their affairs. One Company—Top Ten Promotions Ltd.—was formed to promote the pools, and Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., as their agents organised collections; another body, Regional Club Organisation Ltd., took over as the governing body of the Spastics League Club.

Collectors still took 1s. a week from members, but the first 1s. of each month, taken as stake money for the whole month, was paid to Top Ten Promotions Ltd. The remaining three weeks in each month were considered as 'club weeks'; and the money collected in each of these—9½d. club subscription and 2½d. charity donation—was paid to Regional Club Organisation Ltd.

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise now maintain that the two schemes

for running the pools and collecting club money are in fact a single scheme and, as such, the 9½d. club subscription is chargeable with duty. Top Ten Promotions Ltd. are contesting this claim.

With the agreement of The Spastics Society and the Sembal Trust a reserve fund has been established to meet the liability for betting duty if the case is lost and this has resulted in a reduction in the incomes of both charities.

Serious Potential Loss

The potential loss to The Spastics Society is substantial and one which it can ill afford, bearing in mind, in particular, its long waiting lists for admission to Centres yet to be built and whose future is now in jeopardy.

The hearing of the case, which ended on the 28th of April, was at the High Court in London and was before Mr. Justice Lyell. The Commissioners of Customs and Excise were represented by Mr. S. B. R. Cooke, Q.C., and Top Ten Promotions by Sir John Hobson, Q.C., a former Attorney General, but judgement is not expected to be given before the 25th May, and will be too late for publication in the June edition of SPASTICS NEWS. Much will depend upon whether the verdict is appealed against by either side and, if it is, there will almost certainly be a delay of many months before the whole matter is concluded and the Society, and other charities who are affected, can plan their affairs for the future.

Outstanding for Two Years

The case has already been outstanding for two years and despite the fact that monies, which could have provided substantial benefits for the members, have had to be held in reserve and the competitions accordingly made less attractive, the large membership has held together remarkably well and a great deal of credit is due to the imaginative leadership of the Organisation at Bristol and the solid loyalty of some 48,000 part-time collectors and their supervisors, the great majority of whom are very loyal supporters to the Society and its work.

'a cruel anomaly of the Law'

The Sunday Times

THE *Sunday Times* 'Spectrum' page recently spotlighted an unintentionally cruel anomaly of the law which victimises disabled passengers of private cars. People who are partially crippled but still able to drive are entitled to a free car and many other concessions, but the completely disabled who must be driven everywhere by someone else receive no official assistance at all.

The partially crippled driver receives a free car from the National Health Service. The excise duty of £17 10s. is met by the Government. He receives free fully comprehensive insurance, a car maintenance allowance, beginning at £60 a year, £5 a year towards the cost of petrol, free driving tuition, windscreen sticker from the local authority, exempting him from parking costs, and he may even receive a contribution towards the cost of garaging his car. But the completely crippled passenger cannot even obtain a windscreen sticker which indicates that the car is being used to transport a totally disabled person.

So far, despite the support of The Spastics Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the crippled passenger has received little help. The official attitude has seemed to be that, if some concessions are made, everyone with a gouty toe will be asking for assistance. But this difficulty can easily be overcome by restricting concessions to people who produce a doctor's certificate which states that they are totally disabled.

The *Sunday Times* report concludes by saying that ultimately, provision will, of course, have to come from the Government.

Surprise Gift

FOLLOWING A RECENT newspaper appeal for educational books, the Warden of Coombe Farm, Mr. E. T. Udall, was overjoyed to receive as a gift to the centre, a completely new set of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica' direct from the publishers.

Also at Coombe Farm, the Rangers group is saving hard for their forthcoming holiday in Switzerland. Twenty-four girls in wheelchairs with about thirty helpers will be staying for two weeks at a conference centre by Lake Thun in a house specially adapted for the disabled. The holiday will cost £2,500 which the girls are collecting themselves, by means of jumble sales, coffee mornings and saving Green Shield Stamps. £2,200 has already been raised and the girls are hoping to have the other £300 before August.

views . . . news and views . . . new

Before the Kissing Starts

MALE RESIDENTS of the new Heathbank Hostel at Halifax have only one electric razor between them. They are appealing for some kind person to give them a new one, preferably before the expected new contingent of girls arrives.

Robert's on the Move Again

ROBERT BLAND, the Australian spastic who hit the headlines early this year when he was temporarily refused entry to Britain, is in the news again. Robert, who is now at Birmingham Sheltered Workshop, has appealed for a companion to go on a Continental tour. He said: 'I should like to meet up with one person or a small group aged about 20 to 30 with a car who would be willing to accompany me. I would, of course, share all expenses, and I can take a fortnight's holiday any time between 15th July and 1st September.

(Birmingham Evening Mail)

Generosity of Hotel Patrons

A CHEQUE FOR £271, the result of collections made at the Pilot Hotel, Radford, Coventry, was presented to the Coventry and District Spastics Society recently. This brings the hotel's total contributions to the

Society so far to about £750. The cheque was received by Mr. W. C. Heath, the deputy Chairman of the Society, and by Mr. L. R. Hill, governor of the Society's Penderels Residential Home, Meriden.

(Coventry Evening Telegraph)

Ball Raises £1,000

NEARLY £1,000 was raised at the annual ball organised on 13th April by the Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics and the Nottingham and District Guild for the Disabled. The two organisations have now been running the ball jointly for nine seasons.

For the Guild it was part of a big money-raising effort to mark their Diamond Jubilee. The Friends of Spastics Group plan to use their share of the profits

to provide family holidays for spastics at their chalet bungalows at Chapel St. Leonards.

(Nottingham Evening Post)

Fashion Show

CAERNARVONSHIRE SPASTICS and Handicapped People's Society collected £250 at a recent fashion show in Llandudno. More than eight hundred people attended the show which was presented by Marks and Spencer and opened by Mrs. J. Armstrong-Jones, the widow of Lord Snowdon's father.

(Llandudno Advertiser)

Anonymous Gift

AN ANONYMOUS GIFT of £50 was recently handed to members of Cornish Spastics



(Courtesy: Express & Star, Wolverhampton)

SUPPORTERS' SOCIALS

(Above). More than 100 members and supporters of the Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society attended the first big social event at the Connaught Hotel, in aid of the plan for a local work centre. (L. to R.): Mr. N. Williams, Appeals Committee, and Mrs. Williams; Mr. G. E. Robinson, Society Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Robinson; Chairman Appeals Committee, Mr. J. Griffiths and Dr. M. Griffiths, Society Chairman.

(Left). Lady Rachel Bowes-Lyon, President of the Herts. Spastics Society, tries her luck on the tombola, attended by Mr. Edward Wilson, son of Mrs. Molly Wilson, who organised the 9th Annual Ball for the Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics Society. About 200 people made this event a great success on St. Patrick's night, and the profit of £286 exceeded last year's



nd views . .

Society during a sale at Redruth. This brought the afternoon's proceeds to nearly £100, a useful contribution towards a physiotherapy unit at the Gladys Holman Home, soon to be opened at Cambourne.

(West Briton)

£700 in a Year

IT WAS REPORTED at the A.G.M. of the Penrith Branch of the Spastics Society that £700 had been sent to Headquarters during the year.

(Cumberland and Westmorland Herald)

Flintshire Spastics Society

AT A PUBLIC MEETING held recently in Mold, the Flintshire Spastics Society was re-formed from what used to be the Flint and District Spastics Society. It is hoped that the steering committee will be able to form support groups in the large towns of Flintshire to enable the Society to provide a service to spastics all over the county.

(Flint County Herald)

Special Church Service

TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS of Maidstone Area Spastics Society attended morning service at St. Luke's Church, Maidstone, recently. This was the annual spastics' service which is held in a different church in the area each year. Afterwards, Mr. H. R. Pratt Boorman, Group President and Mr. Hugh Botting, the Chairman, joined parents and children for coffee in the church hall.

(Maidstone Gazette)

Norwich enters International Market

NORWICH WORK CENTRE has won a contract from an American firm to assemble unit staging, platforms and furniture.

(Yorkshire Evening Post)

Forthcoming Events

- Opening of the new ward built at St. Vincent's orthopaedic hospital, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex, by Cardinal John Heenan on Saturday, June 10th.
- Opening of Woodford Work Centre by the Mayor of Redbridge, on Sunday, June 11th.
- Opening of the extensions to Irton Hall School, Holmbrook, Cumberland, by Sir Fergus Graham Bart, K.B.E., on Wednesday, June 28th.



A happy holiday picture of a group of spastic visitors to Jersey from England, as guests of the ever-generous Jersey Spastics Society

Jersey was Wonderful

'WE HAD A MARVELLOUS TIME'. 'The people in Jersey were wonderful—nothing was too much trouble for them'. 'We were treated like V.I.P.'s!'

These were just a few of the comments enthusiastically expressed on Thursday, 11th May, when a party of nineteen spastics and six escorts returned from Jersey after spending a fortnight's holiday as guests of the Jersey Spastics Society.

The party consisted of people from all parts of England and Wales and for most of them, this holiday gave them their first experience of travelling by air. Upon arrival in Jersey, a number of the party stayed in St. Helier at the Hotel Des Voyageurs. The remainder were accommodated at the recently opened hotel for the handicapped, Maison Des Landes at St. Ouen. A very full programme of entertainments and outings was arranged for the fortnight. This included visits to the Zoo, the Jersey Potteries, a gymkhana, film evenings, a night at the Opera House, dances and crazy nights. With only one rainy day in the whole fortnight, it was no wonder that everyone returned looking well and very sunnanned!

It is difficult adequately to express thanks to the Jersey Spastics Society for their wonderfully unflinching generosity to spastics from this country. The Committee works extremely hard to make this holiday a success, but I am sure that they are amply repaid by seeing the immeasurable happiness and enjoyment which they give to their guests. It is worthwhile to note that if this holiday invitation had not been offered, the majority of this year's

party would not have been in a position to have a holiday at all!

HOLIDAY CRUISE, 1967

ON TUESDAY, 30th MAY, a party of twenty-eight lightly handicapped adults will be sailing from Tilbury on the M.S. *Devonia* for a nine-day holiday cruise to Norway, Denmark and Holland.

Members of the party, whose ages range from 17-36, will be travelling as cabin class passengers with all the ship's amenities at their disposal. They will be visiting three fascinating cities during their trip: Kristiansand, Copenhagen and Amsterdam. Sightseeing excursions have been arranged for each port of call.

This cruise holiday was organised by The Spastics Society and should prove an interesting and varied experience for those taking part.

ADVERTISEMENT

Isle of Wight Holiday Caravan

Bookings still available for the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society's Holiday Caravan at Thorness Bay, Isle of Wight, as follows:—

July 2nd (Sunday)-

July 16th (Sunday)

and

September 2nd (Saturday)-

September 30th (Saturday)

Please address enquiries to:—

Mrs. W. Stephenson,
161 Queen's Park Avenue,
Bournemouth.

A Mother's Courage

Under the title: 'Their Friday-the-13th Child started this Society of Hope', the 'Midland Chronicle' featured this inspiring story. We are grateful for their permission to reprint it.

NEIL CARROLL, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick John Carroll, of 60, James Watt Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich, was six years old before his parents knew that he would be able to go to school and receive an education.

Till then no one, except his parents, was sure that Neil was capable of receiving education. He could not speak, or walk, or even sit unaided; could not feed himself.

'But we knew he was intelligent', recalled his mother. 'We could see it in his eyes. And we knew that he needed the most specialised kind of education if he was not to be a prisoner of his own disabilities'.

Neil was born—on Friday, 13th September, 1957—a spastic, a heavily handicapped spastic. And even now, at the age of nine, after some 18 months at school, he can just about say the words 'Yes' and 'No'. (Since he was a baby he has always been able to pronounce 'Mom'.)

But there are other achievements—Neil can read. He will probably never be able to write, but he is learning to type—with his feet.

The speech therapy doesn't just mean success with one or two words. Neil no longer dribbles. He's also learned to chew; he doesn't have to live on slops.

He can sit almost unaided. He can get from one side of the room to the other—by rolling his body over and over. Bed-wetting is a thing of the past.

All these achievements are precious milestones to the Carrolls, compensating in no small measure for the heartaches they endured when first Neil went away to Cardiff to a residential school for spastics.

He had been at the school scarcely a month when he was taken seriously ill and admitted to hospital. He was so ill that for several nights Mrs. Carroll slept alongside him in the ward. Then he went home to Hill Top to be nursed back to health again—and return to Cardiff.

'We knew it was the end of the line for him if he didn't go back to school', said Mrs. Carroll, 'but it took all our courage to let him go'.

Yet since that date Neil has made nothing but progress. And for the Carrolls this has meant more than mere personal happiness—it's another vital piece of experience for the society they started.

One could almost call it 'their' society because he is the Chairman, she the Secretary, of the West Bromwich and

District Spastic Society formed in January, 1965.

'It was a promise we made to each other when first we knew that Neil would be able to go to school', explained Mrs. Carroll. 'We learned then of all the help other people had made possible for spastics and determined that as soon as things were settled in regard to Neil's schooling we'd start something in our part of the Midlands to help spastics there'.

Mrs. Carroll, whose 30th birthday is not till June, outlined briefly and calmly what being the mother of a spastic child had meant to her.

Her First Baby

'Neil was my first baby', she said. 'It was a normal pregnancy, except that he arrived three weeks early. At the time of the birth, in a nursing home, I wasn't told there was anything wrong with him and for several weeks I thought we were just unlucky in that Neil cried a lot, was very difficult to feed and afterwards had colic so badly I thought he was having convulsions.'

'I blamed myself for a lot of his troubles, thought my inexperience as a mother was responsible. But things were just the same when he was with my mother, and gradually—very gradually—I came to realise that Neil was different from other babies.'

'Even so I didn't know what was wrong. I was taking him regularly to the hospital and he'd passed the age when he should be sitting up; by rights he should have been walking'.

Neil was 14 months old before the Carrolls were told he was a spastic.

'I think we ought to have been told sooner', she said. 'We might have been able to help him more. We didn't know, for instance, that he wasn't able to suck

because his tongue was paralysed. Hours and hours we spent trying to feed him.'

'And while I realise that the reason we were not told earlier was probably because no one wanted to break such dreadful news to us, the agony of doubt and fear we endured those first 14 months added up to much more suffering.'

'In any case, whatever the reason, part of the result was that our help for Neil as a spastic started later than it need have done. And that's partly why we started the Spastics Society for West Bromwich and Walsall.'

Long-term Aim

'Our long-term aim is to build and equip a nursery unit for spastic children, so that they can have help at the earliest possible age, and so that the parents can be helped as well.'

'We know all too well the misery and heartache of the first few years. We never had a decent night's sleep until Neil was four. During the first year my husband and I had to take it in turns to sleep. Every meal was a nightmare, holidays were out of the question. There were none of the joys of parenthood—just the agony of watching other people's babies growing and behaving as you hoped and prayed yours still might.'

No matter how sympathetic friends and neighbours might be you can't help feeling alone and isolated. And once you know for certain that your child is a spastic you become desperate to see that everything possible is done to help him.'

'I worried terribly that people wouldn't believe that Neil was intelligent; that he would be denied education. It got so that I just couldn't look at normal children without weeping'.

Fortunately, as she now admits, when Neil was four and her concern for him was perilously near the fanatical, she and her husband decided they would have another child.

'From about the sixth month onwards I lived in dread that something would go

A remarkable picture taken at the West Bromwich & District Society's Special Care Unit at the Junior Training Centre. Two-year-old Andrew Parsons is being helped to have a ride on the spring horse, by S.R.N., Mrs. J. D. King



A Mother's Courage (Cont'd)

wrong', she recalled. 'But I needn't have worried—Leigh was normal in every way and a wonderful baby'.

For two days a week Neil attended the Birmingham Spastics play centre. 'Otherwise I just could not have coped with both him and the baby'.

Even so she was still haunted by the fear that Neil would not be educated.

'I can't tell you just how much it meant to us to go to the Spastics Centre in London for a week and have Neil's intelligence assessed. It wasn't just that they confirmed what we knew all along—that Neil had intelligence, could be educated. It was the thrill of learning about all the help there was available for spastics. The residential school that he would go to at the age of seven; the speech therapy, the many ways there were of tackling the handicaps'.

'It was as if prison doors had opened. There was good reason to hope. Help was available. We need never feel alone and isolated again. My heart just filled with gratitude for the people who had made all this possible.

'I talked it over with my husband. He felt the same way. We decided there and then that we would start the West Bromwich and District Spastics Society, so that we could do our best to help the parents of other spastics'.

At the Society's inaugural meeting, just over two years ago, there was a record attendance for such a 'first night', with over 200 people present. And the Society soon made further headlines when it was announced that the Chairman, Walsall industrialist Mr. W. H. L. Harrison, had started them off with a £500 cheque for the kiddy.

The Carrolls have never lost sight of their ultimate goal—a nursery unit for spastics of pre-school age; but the programme does not overlook the here-and-now problems of local spastics.

One of the most recent purchases from Society funds is the spring horse shown in the picture; an ingenious conversion of a rocking horse which enables the most handicapped child to be strapped in and taken for a ride.

This spring horse has been presented



Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Carroll, Chairman and Secretary of the Group, spend all their free time working for spastics

to the Special Care Unit of the West Bromwich Junior Training Centre, to which are brought children who are both mentally and physically handicapped, and many of these are spastics.

The Society are giving help to individual cases, too. They've just started a Home Help scheme for the time being footing the bill for local authority home helps aiding the mother of a spastic child, but hoping to employ their own home help who would be specially trained for work with spastics.

Play Afternoons

A play-afternoon for the heavily handicapped spastics is to be introduced during the Easter holidays, partly to get these children out of the home for a break, also to give the mother a breather and a chance to go out with the other children. This play-afternoon is being held at the Junior Training Centre, and will cater mainly for wheelchair cases. Neil will be among them and another heavily handicapped spastic, a girl who attends residential school and is learning to write with a special attachment to her head called a unicorn.

There are plans, too, for an Easter social for spastics and their families, and Mrs. Carroll hopes it will also be possible to lay on a film show for all physically handicapped youngsters during the holidays.

'Yes, I suppose it is a lot of work', she admitted, 'but we know what it means to the people involved—particularly the parents. We have some wonderfully keen helpers—our Treasurer is a retired headmistress, Miss L. E. Swinnerton. The Health Department is always most helpful, and there has been good support from local organisations—the Central Townswomen's Guild for instance.

'Our biggest worry is how to get in touch with all spastics in the area. We've written to every single G.P. asking for help in making our Society known'.

In the past two years the number of spastics represented by the Society has more than doubled, but the Carrolls feel there are many more spastics in the West Bromwich/Walsall area they could be helping.

By Midland Chronicle Correspondent.
Pat Carr

Taking the Strain

Mrs. E. M. Milnes has addressed several meetings on the subject of 'Parents' Problems'. Her talks show such a vivid imagination, so much humour and understanding that other parents will surely find her remarks of help in their own difficulties.

HEARTBREAK—Misery—Disbelief. These words are so often used to describe the feeling when told one has a cerebral-palsied child; this news can be given any time between the baby being three months and twelve months of age; the months in between can be extremely worrying, as in so many cases the parents are aware there is something wrong. There is even some relief in the final diagnosis—at least a name has now been put to the child's condition.

I am speaking today on the parents' problems. This is a vast subject, and one that changes practically year by year as the child grows and, of course, varies with the degree of handicap. Therefore, I must try to generalise.

Emotion within the family is, I think, one of the biggest problems; it has a vast effect on both the physical and mental development of the handicapped one, and on any other normal children there may be in the family. I refer to the emotions of the mother and father. How does this terrible blow affect their marriage? It has so often been said that trouble can bring two people closer together—or have the reverse effect.

I am not concerned with the former; they are the lucky ones; but what happens to the other marriages? Is it perhaps that the task is too great for the mother?

She now finds herself playing a very strange and unnatural role. She must forget her own heartbreak—no more tears—she must let the child (crying with frustration) struggle to do something for himself when her natural instinct is to help him. She mustn't cuddle or sympathise too much or she will spoil the child and make him too dependent on her. She mustn't get cross if it takes three times as long to feed the child because of swallowing difficulties when perhaps younger members of the family are demanding her attention.

These are only a few examples of the self-discipline that this mother must practise, and in so doing she may build a barrier around herself, becoming a little tougher or harder to the world outside that of her handicapped child and herself.

Once this barrier has been built it no longer hurts quite so much to see Johnny

next door, of the same age-group, walking perfectly and playing quite happily, or to see a friend pushing a pram, with the child inviting the smiles of gooe-eyed shoppers rather than the inquisitive 'What is the matter with that child?' look. This barrier around the mother is, perhaps, inevitable, and—to some extent—a good thing; but the repression of her natural instincts can become a way of life, so much so that it affects the rest of her family, particularly her husband.

From having a once happy and contented and—one hopes—a loving wife he now finds she is no longer capable of giving, or receiving, love. No doubt she feels that he can get away from it all during the day, doing his own job of work and doesn't understand the misery she has to go through at home.

I realise that some of these problems apply in a normal household. Anywhere where there is a small child life is hectic for the mother, but with a normal baby sufficient is the reward of seeing the little one thrive and develop into a strong and healthy child. How different it can be in a home where there is a severely handicapped child—where progress is seldom seen over months, even years.

Difficult for Father

The father's role in this can be very difficult; he has, indeed, to carry on doing his job of work and he must learn to detach himself from his problems at home or his work will suffer. In some cases this is made harder for him by the feeling he now has of being shut out, the feeling of being neglected by his wife can bring about a certain resentment towards the handicapped child.

There is no solution to these problems in the early years, but year by year parents do become accustomed to having a handicapped child. I don't think one can ever really accept it, but rather adjust one's life to it. Eventually the mother may feel she can ask a friend to babysit so that she can go out with her husband, whereas in the past—when the child was younger—she would have been very reluctant to leave the child in someone else's care.

Throughout the country day clinics and

night-care-centres are being planned and, in some areas, are well-established. For the families who can take advantage of these units life is being made a little easier. Parents are able to feel that for one or two days a week they can hand over the responsibility to a qualified and experienced team of people. During this comparatively free period the mother must surely take stock of her family and it can be quite disturbing to realise just how much her other children's activities are being restricted. Perhaps they don't go for as many walks now as they used to—it is impossible to go for a ramble with a wheelchair, and even if the handicapped child can partially walk neither the mother's or the father's back will stand much more of carrying the child when his efforts at walking become too much for him. The parents must also ask themselves whether they are depending a little too often on their other children playing with the handicapped one in the garden.

To illustrate this may I quote my own family? Our spastic daughter is ten years old, quite severely physically handicapped and in a wheelchair. We have another child, a little girl aged six, who has—for her age—a wonderful understanding of the handicapped. Just because she has been brought up with it she will play quite happily with Anne, but as soon as a normal child appears off she goes—and quite rightly so. At last she can play a proper game, but the anguish I have felt at times like this just cannot be put into words because Anne is of normal intelligence and is so aware of what is happening. I can be happy that Louise has an active friend for a time, yet the look of acceptance on Anne's face can be heartbreaking.

Where do we go from here? There are thousands of people in various societies trying to educate the outside world into accepting handicapped people into their way of life. It has been said that once adults accept the handicapped their children will automatically do the same. I wish this could be so but, as the mother of a charming and delightful spastic daughter I could never condemn a normal child for not wanting to play. Surely the

Taking the Strain (Cont'd)

basic human instinct of a child is to play and be with someone as active as himself.

As the handicapped child reaches school age advice is sought from, and one hopes, given by, the educational and medical world, together with local authorities. A place will eventually be found at one of the special schools in the area. Quite often this can be some distance from the home and a taxi or ambulance may have to be used to convey the child to and from school. For the parents who have been over-protective with the child this can be a difficult time. Very often for the first time in his life the child is away from his mother, but on the whole, this is a welcome break for both of them—for the child to mix socially and experience community life with children like himself, and for the mother to become an individual again for a few hours every day.

I have a good deal of sympathy for the so-called lightly handicapped child. In his early schooldays a primary school may have been advised; the parents will have approved for they themselves have never considered that their child should go to a special school.

A great deal of patience and understanding will now be required of the parents to enable them to answer those questions 'Why are the other children staring at me?' 'Why can't I catch the ball like the others?' 'Why can't I run as fast as the others?' With an understanding teacher, and a not too crowded class the child will be able to adjust himself and the others to him. But the problem here, for both the child and the parents, is that although he is mixing and living in an ordinary world, can that child ever feel completely of that world?

Up to school-age, then through school holidays, keeping a cerebral palsied child occupied is one big headache. Where the use of the limbs is limited, particularly the hands, it is practically an impossible task.

Painting can only be done with assistance, writing—an arduous task for some spastics—is soon tired of, and so the day goes on. 'What can I do now, mummy?' seems to be the continual cry—that is, if the child can speak. 'Just a minute until I've finished the washing up' is a typical answer—(necessary, because, of course, the washing-up *must* be done). The feeling of guilt and remorse that one can suffer after the child is in bed and asleep has made many a mother determined to

try a little harder and have more patience the following day.

If she has been cross with the child it has probably been a cover for the pity and sympathy she really feels. The mother is only too aware that the child has to have his nose wiped for him—he can't grip a handkerchief himself. The child can't help wanting to go to the toilet several times a day.

How can he pick up the pencil that has dropped from his tray?

We all know what it is like to have an itch and not be able to scratch it but, of course, Johnny would have to have one inside his sock today just when mummy had her hands in flour!

I don't know if it helps in the midst of a bad day to have one's spastic daughter say 'I don't know what you are grumbling about mummy, you have only one spastic child to look after—Miss Brown at school, has fifteen in our class'.

Broken Sleep

There are many nights when sleep is broken for one reason or another. To the cerebral-palsied child sleep does not come easily. In babyhood there seems to be a complete inability to relax, consequently the slightest noise can arouse a child to almost stark fear, and only the presence of a parent can eventually soothe the baby. This at times can take hours. Obviously as the child gets older there is an improvement in sleeping, but for the child who is immobile, turning over in bed is an impossible task without mummy or daddy to help. Too much liquid at bedtime for the child, and another call comes through about 3 a.m., but it is amazing how one gets used to this—it just becomes routine.

The physical side of coping with a severely handicapped child presents one of the biggest problems. Having developed in my shoulders the muscles of an all-in wrestler I speak not lightly on this subject. Arms, legs, back and shoulders of both parents can be affected by this. Much friction can be caused within a family, not through any particular difference of opinion, but just because the mother and father are tired and strained.

What then, is the answer? A bungalow has helped us enormously—at least we have no stairs to cope with now. The difference in physical effort has been fantastic. For people living in flats, the ground floor is the obvious choice. For many families this is still not the answer. Where the physical and emotional strain have proved too great, a residential school or home has to be considered. For parents who care this is a great decision to have to make—one can only hope the right decision is made.

In families like mine holidays are looked forward to each year just as much as in other families.

Why then do they fall a little flat?

Is it the continual lifting of wheelchair and child, in and out of the car, is it always having to find a beach with the minimum of steps or slope down to it, or is it that once on the beach pushing a wheelchair on soft sand can be a nightmare?

Many parents of children who can partially walk return home from a holiday tired and with strained backs. It is not easy for a father to squash a child's enthusiasm for a walk on the promenade even though he knows that he will probably have to carry the child back. I have talked to parents of teenage spastics and they admit that they have never really had a holiday since the child was born.

One solution is for the mother and father to have another holiday, on their own, but this greatly depends on family circumstances. Holiday hotels for spastics is one answer to this problem.

This is a problem that each family has to sort out for itself. I am very pleased to say that for some parents of severely handicapped, and often mentally sub-normal spastics in the Manchester area, Southfield Family Help Unit is now open. This does mean that for parents help is now available. They can have a restful holiday knowing that the handicapped member of the family is being taken good care of.

Another Baby?

I feel I have talked a lot about other children in the family. There are, of course, many young married couples who, having looked forward to starting a family, produce an abnormal child and then find it impossible to consider having another baby.

One school of thought would say that the parents have more time to spend exercising and helping the child to become independent, but having had another child myself—after medical advice, of course—I would say that, even with all the problems and hard work (including, for a while, pushing two prams) it is, without doubt the most wonderful and satisfying sight to see a normal child running around the house and in so many ways helping the handicapped one.

Instead of being father, mother and handicapped child you become a family—a family, one hopes, without bitterness or resentment.

If that is asking too much, then let us stop and think how much most parents have gained from this experience.

Are we not now more tolerant, and haven't we discovered a patience we never thought we had? I think we have a different set of values from people with straightforward families, but I don't think we are always the losers in that, for we often find fun in things that other people take for granted.

Wessex

Regional

Conference

'Groups will have to finance their own programmes' MR. J. A. LORING

THE CONFERENCE was opened and chaired by Lord Ashburton, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, and a civic welcome was extended by the Mayor of Basingstoke. The Mayor gave a special welcome to the spastics attending the conference with whom he had talked for quite a while prior to the official opening.

Mr. E. G. Williment, chairman of the Advisory Committee, reported on progress within the Region during the past year, and touched on the hope that during the forthcoming months further facilities would be provided in the Basingstoke area, but in connection with this, warned that in the event of any such work taking place those groups who would benefit would be asked to make a co-operative effort to raise a sum of £25,000.

The Deputy Director, Mr. James Loring, outlined the present and future policy of The Spastics Society, and underlined the fact that much thought was being given by the Society's Executive as to the role the Society would play in the future. He made it quite clear however, that if the Society continued to expand at its present rate two or three years would see the end of money available for bricks and mortar; that more and more Groups will be called on to finance their own building programmes.

Mr. J. F. G. Emms, chairman of the Regions and Group co-ordinating committee, reviewed the formation and growth of The Spastics Society, pointing out the speed with which it has grown, and rapid expansion of all its services. He referred to Mr. Loring's remarks and underlined the need for careful study of the Society's role in the future. He stressed the importance of Groups in the Society's structure and the future increased inter-dependence of both in the provision of all round expansion.

Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, M.O.H., for Wiltshire, gave an interesting talk on 'At Risk' children and the steps the authorities take to follow up and care for them. He also spoke of the needs in the care of the older handicapped, and the role voluntary Societies can play in co-operating with

local authorities in providing for and assisting in the care of the handicapped.

Dr. B. H. Kirman, a Consultant Psychiatrist and Honorary Physician to a group of hospitals, also held the conference's interest when describing the recent research in mental sub-normality. Slides were shown to illustrate his talk, part of which dealt with the now familiar chromosome patterns. Towards the end of his talk he underlined the fact that he felt many sub-normal people—so labelled—in hospitals were capable of being placed in work and there was still a great need for research into the possibility of their rehabilitation.

Perhaps the most inspiring speech of the day to the great majority of the Conference was that given by Mrs. E. M. Milnes, Hon. Sec. of the Manchester

Group, and herself a parent of a spastic. She described her family's life with her spastic daughter of ten and non-handicapped daughter of eight. Given as unemotionally as possible her talk was well delivered and thoughtful; full of understanding of the increased needs of all her family in their life with a handicapped child. (See p. 9.—Editor).

In closing the Conference, Lord Ashburton, who is also President of the Hampshire Council of Social Service, said he felt those present had had an opportunity to learn much that was both pertinent to their own association with spastics, and to their general knowledge regarding the handicapped. He thanked the speakers for providing a rich diet, and said that he himself had greatly profited by taking the chair at the Conference.

For the first time—an Advisory Panel

FOR the first time at any Regional Conference, an advisory panel for the use of both parents and adult spastics was provided.

At the 1966 Conference a number of parents and spastics had personal questions and problems which they would have liked to discuss with members of the 'general knowledge' panel during the Open Forum. They felt, however, that to use up limited time on matters that were not of general interest would not be of any help to the greater number of delegates. Also, some had questions that were of a personal nature, and not suitable for open discussion.

This year, however, Wessex experimented. A panel of professional and knowledgeable people was formed; a General Practitioner, a Social Worker, a Ministry of Labour Group Disablement Resettlement Officer, and a senior officer from each of the Education, Welfare, and Health Departments from Hampshire County Council. This panel sat under the Chairmanship of the Regional Social Worker, for the whole day. It was not their purpose to attempt to solve problems and queries but to advise both parents and spastics where they could best turn for the proper help and assistance in their particular case, and to provide them with the necessary details to enable them to do this.

The Panel saw four parents, and one spastic during the day, and spent a considerable time with each. This may seem a small number, but to have helped one would have been considered worthwhile, and it is particularly interesting to note that the panelists themselves considered they had spent a very profitable day, in that they had not only been able to assist in a number of cases, but that by meeting with each other and generally talking of the ways and means each had of assisting both parents and spastics in their own particular sphere had been of considerable use to them, and had widened their own thinking on the subject.

Next year will see the second of these Advisory Panels; and we confidently hope that more use will be made of it. Already we have heard of parents who now wish they had taken advantage of this new service.

Charmian Mould, Wessex R.O.

(Dr. Lycett's interesting address has had to be held over until the July issue owing to pressure on space.—Editor).

West Regional Conference



Mr. J. L. Hamerton, Mr. Peter Pope, West R.O., Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, Mr. F. G. T. Pearce, and Mr. Tony Frank, C.R.O., pictured during a break in the proceedings at the West Regional Conference

'1,000 members and
800 known spastics'

MR. F. G. T. PEARCE

THE WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE and Annual General Meeting was held in the Queen's Building at the University of Exeter on Saturday, 6th May. Just under 90 delegates braved storm and tempest to travel from as far apart as Bristol, Bath and Penzance whilst others came from other parts of Cornwall, Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare, Yeovil, Plymouth and Exeter itself. Local and county authorities were also represented.

It is not terribly easy to find the University when one reaches Exeter and we had arranged for the A.A. to signpost the route, which also gave us a modicum of publicity in the city. On the morning of the Conference, the Regional Officer was horrified to find that the two most vital signs in the University grounds had been removed overnight by some person or persons unknown! A splendid start to his first Conference! However, the A.A. replaced them quite quickly—but not before a Cornish contingent could be prevented from doing an unscheduled tour of the University.

After refreshment, the delegates assembled in a tiered lecture hall under the very able Chairmanship of Dr. F. S. W. Brimblecombe, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H., Consultant Paediatrician to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. He was introduced by Mr. F. G. T. Pearce, the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee.

Dr. Brimblecombe welcomed everyone and spoke of the importance of the work of the Society which, of course, covers all local groups throughout the country. He then introduced the first speaker, Mr. J. L. Hamerton, the Senior Lecturer in Cytogenetics at the Paediatric Research

Unit, Guy's Hospital, who has an international reputation for his very specialised work.

Mr. Hamerton's talk covered the history, organisation and work of the Paediatric Research Unit. He explained that its research covered other types of handicap in addition to cerebral palsy, and he described the work that the Unit had done and was doing, under the direction of Professor Polani. He illustrated his lecture with some excellent slides. Several questions were asked by members of the audience.

Classwork is Adapted

The second speaker was Mrs. C. M. Kearslake, Headmistress of Craig-y-Parc School, Cardiff, whose subject was '*Education of Cerebral Palsied Children between the ages of five and sixteen in a Residential Setting*'. Mrs. Kearslake explained the criteria for admission and the nature of the handicap in relation to the curriculum. She described the problems and how classwork is adapted to suit the needs of the individual child. Her task was concluded with a film of Craig-y-Parc, all of which was of great value.

This concluded the morning session and the Conference then adjourned for refreshment and lunch. The latter was in pre-packed boxes and taken in another hall. This was also a valuable period as it allowed delegates to meet and discuss problems and subjects of mutual interest in an informal and congenial atmosphere.

The afternoon session was opened by Mr. F. G. T. Pearce who reported on the work of the Regional Advisory Committee during the year.

He referred to the achievements in relation to the vast area that the Region covered. He said that the Advisory Com-

mittee had no wish to interfere with any Group policy or its working arrangements but that its main theme was a sincerity to assist generally in any way in our common object of the welfare of spastics. He stated that the Regional population was about 2½ million and that we had approximately 1,000 members in the various Groups. There were about 800 known spastics in the Region.

Mr. Pearce spoke of the facilities that were available in the Region, the new Family Help Unit at Plymouth and new Centres which are in the planning stage. He also referred to the setting-up of district committees and the possible reorganisation of some Group boundaries.

Three retiring members of the Regional Advisory Committee were re-elected and Mr. Pearce was also re-elected as Chairman at the Committee Meeting which followed the Conference.

The final period was taken up by some excellent questions from the floor which were very ably answered by a panel consisting of Dr. Brimblecombe, Mrs. Kearslake, Mr. A. M. Frank, Chief Regional Officer, Mr. Pearce and Miss H. M. Day, West Regional Social Worker. Questions ranged from physiotherapy to fund raising and from education to Family Help Units. Mr. Frank spoke on the possible future work of the Society and the policies that it might follow.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked the speakers for their extremely interesting talks and Mr. F. W. Odgers, the Honorary Treasurer of the Cornish Spastics Society, gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the most able and interesting way in which he had conducted the proceedings.

This concluded a valuable and well-attended Conference.

Peter Pope, West R.O.

A Happy 'Family' at Ponds

described by
ANNE PLUMMER
on the occasion of a
visit by a Swedish party

A PARTY OF SIX VISITORS from Sweden recently spent a week going round some of the Society's centres. The group, consisting of two doctors, a teacher, two representatives from a Training Centre and a member of the Swedish Spastics Society, had come to England to study our work facilities for the severely handicapped. They had been to Paddington and Central Middlesex Work Centres, Meldreth, Birmingham and Sherrards. On the Thursday, I joined them on a visit to Ponds, the Society's home for adult spastics in Buckinghamshire.

It had rained continuously for the first half of the week, confirming the worst fears of the Swedish visitors about the English climate. Skies were still overcast



Violet Shakespeare puts the finishing touches to some sturdy stools with the help of the instructor, Mr. John Brown, the Warden's husband. In the foreground, standard lamp parts ready for assembly

when they reached Ponds, but daffodils and tulips in the beautifully kept grounds made a welcoming splash of colour. Before starting on their tour of the building, the visitors had coffee and were told something about Ponds. Mr. Lundberg of the Swedish Spastics Society was the only member of the party who spoke English at all well, but the others were able to follow the gist of the conversation with the help of a phrase interpreted here and there. One of them carried a portable tape-recorder, for storing information to be translated into Swedish later on.

Mrs. Christine Brown, the Warden, explained the functions of the centre, which provides a home for 52 spastics between the ages of 16 and 45. Two-thirds of them were wheelchair cases and most had hand disabilities. All were of normal intelligence and Mrs. Brown stressed the importance of keeping them fully occupied. Besides speech, physio- and occupational therapy, educational classes are provided. Although these are not compulsory, many of the residents welcome this opportunity of improving their knowledge, and classes range from elementary reading to 'O' and 'A' Level studies.

'The Family', as the residents prefer to be called, have a close contact with students of Wycombe College, and a local teacher-training establishment, joining them for debates, concerts and play-readings. There is a flourishing music club, Rovers, Rangers and a Youth Club. Sporting activities include wheelchair football, horse-riding and a newly-formed archery group ('not for athetoids'! said Mrs. Brown, firmly.)

Future plans include the building of a new wing for the over-45's and provision of a small Hostel, where six or seven more able-bodied spastics can live in greater independence, releasing places in the main building for heavily handicapped people. About £9,000 has already been collected towards the Hostel project by the Friends of Ponds, a group of local well-wishers, which has been associated with the home since its opening by the



Covered passage-ways link the old house with the newer residential wing

Swedish visitors were fascinated by the 'Possums'

British Council for the Welfare of Spastics in 1955. At that time, money raised by the Friends of Ponds went towards basic running costs, but since the amalgamation of the B.C.W.S. and N.S.S. in 1963, maintenance of the centre has been taken over by the central administration of The Spastics Society. Funds collected by the Friends of Ponds are now devoted to providing direct amenities for the family itself, such as holidays, educational aids, including Possum machines, a swimming pool and, of course, the proposed Hostel.

After a glimpse of a speech therapy session, the visitors were shown over the sleeping accommodation. Most of the rooms are single-bed-sitters, where friends can be entertained, and there are facilities for making cups of tea or coffee. One young lady had a notice on her door, reminding domestic staff not to clean the room, as she preferred to do it herself! The built-in furniture is well adapted to the needs of the handicapped. I particularly liked the circular mirrors, about 12 inches in diameter on flexible stems, rising from a fixed base. The toilets give plenty of room for wheelchairs, and baths are free-standing. There were no hoists in evidence here. Mrs. Brown said that some had been provided, but the staff

found it easier to lift the residents by hand.

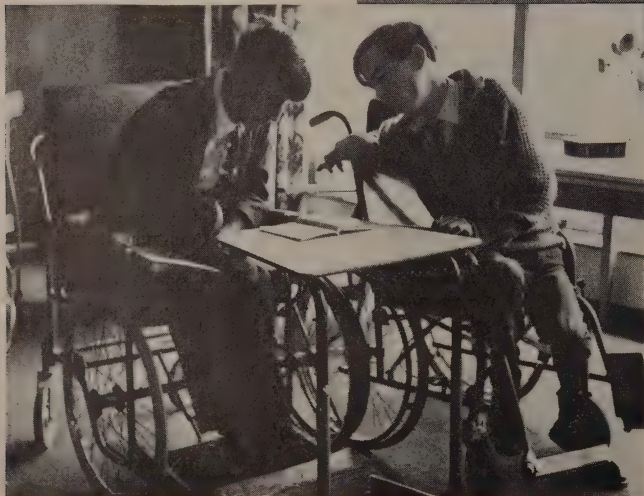
Lunch was taken at Old Jordans Hostel, a 17th Century farmhouse which had been an early Quaker meeting place, and the scene of religious persecution. The Swedish cameras were clicking busily outside the building and inside visitors were fascinated by the ingle-nook fireplace and heavy carved oak doors. Nearby was the

Mayflower Barn, built from the timbers of the ship which took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.

After lunch, we were shown round the workshop at Ponds where even the most severely handicapped are encouraged to take up some form of craftwork. One girl with no use in her hands, who had never made anything in her life before she came to Ponds, was slowly creating a raffia



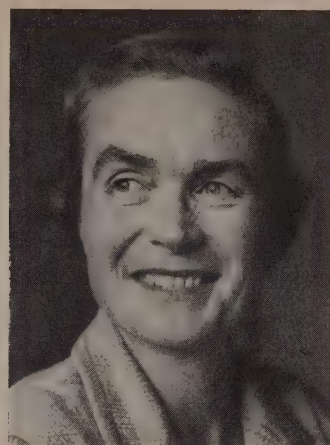
(Above) This simple structure that houses the fine hydrotherapy pool stands on a knoll in the garden. Princess Marina was much impressed by this when she visited Ponds in 1962.



(Left) Study is encouraged although not obligatory, and here Laurence Turbayne and Adrian Bolt are comparing notes. Mr. E. E. Doherty, now at Oakwood, was tutor when this photograph was taken, and under his enthusiastic direction, many residents made great strides in various subjects



(Above) The warm brick and tile of the newer N.W. wing, added in 1962 is set off by a sweep of lawn in the well-kept grounds. Through the arcade, to the right, there are 'family' bedrooms, with staff accommodation above. (Below) A view of one of the girl's pleasant bed-sitting rooms, with its warm-air heating unit, modern furniture, non-slip floor and well-designed fittings. The round swivel mirror is particularly good. Note also that the main window opens like a door for wheelchairs to go in and out, or escape quickly in case of fire



MRS. CHRISTINE BROWN

Mrs. Brown, capable, kind and dedicated, has been Warden of Ponds since the early days of its opening by the B.C.W.S., and was appointed in 1957. Before coming to Buckinghamshire, Mrs. Brown was head of Carlson House School for Spastics in Birmingham. Known, like the rest of the staff, to the 'family' by her christian name, the happy informality of the atmosphere is due in large part to her sympathetic personality.

lampshade, with the help of a 'beak', attached to a band round her head. In the woodwork section, two lathes were busily turning out table-lamps. Over 300 have been produced so far—a contract order for the Society's schools and Centres. One of the lathe operators was so severely disabled that this was the only task that he could manage with his hands.

The Swedish visitors were fascinated by the two Possums which were seen in operation. One was being worked by a young man, using his feet, who is studying for 'A' Level English and History. These machines were invented and developed at Stoke Mandeville, not far from Ponds. The Scandinavian party also remarked upon the happy atmosphere at the centre. I think this comes partly from the informal, non-institutional attitude of the staff and partly from the sense of purpose shown by all the residents. Nobody seemed to be sitting around aimlessly waiting to be told what to do next.

Before they left, I asked Mr. Lundberg what impressions his party had gained during the programme of visits so far. He said they had been given plenty to think about. Some of our ideas would be difficult to translate into Swedish terms, but others, he felt, could be very usefully adopted. The Swedish Spastics Society was a parents' association. At present,

the Friends of Ponds have collected £9,000 towards a new Hostel

they had only one adult centre and no schools, but in time they hoped to provide facilities for all age groups and types of handicap. I mentioned that I had read of blocks of flats in Sweden, specially designed for handicapped people—something we do not have here—and Mr. Lundberg agreed that both countries have something to learn from each other.

This visit marked another link in the strong chain of contacts which Ponds is forging with Sweden. Several members of 'the family' spent a memorable holiday in Sweden last year, and a party of Swedish spastics is to pay a return visit this summer.

Two new house-companions are coming over from Sweden soon, and various other individual Swedish guests are expected at Ponds during the next few months.

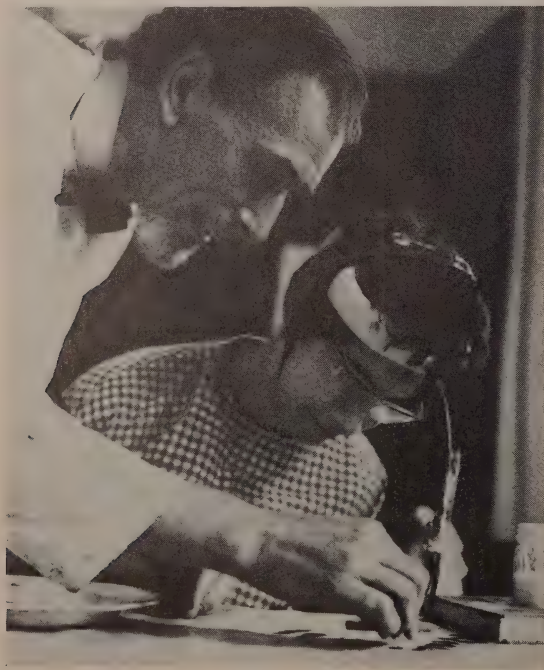
Editor's Note: By the way, since the April issue was published, Miss K. Mc-Innery, who was advertising for a job abroad, has since joined the staff at Ponds.



(Courtesy: Bucks Advertiser)

David Blow operates a lathe watched by the Swedish visitors, (L. to R.) Mr. Elis Palmberg, a teacher, Mr. H. Hedqvist, senior Doctor of the Rehabilitation Centre, Uppsala, Mr. Thonsten Lundberg, a Civil Engineer and member of the Swedish Spastics Society, Mr. Andersson, representative of a Training Centre in Uppsala, Mr. Nilsson, also from Uppsala, Mr. Eric Hulting, Consultant to the Swedish Spastics Society, and Miss Anne Plummer, SPASTICS NEWS reporter

PHOTOGRAPHS
by
Bernard Mitchell



(Above) Terry Smith and Jimmy Woods intent on a game of wheelchair football, in the courtyard. (Left) Mavis Larcombe using a 'beak' attached to her forehead is helped with a drawing by Mr. John Barsby, who takes the Art classes



Work and Play at Croydon

Round the Centres: 2

Rutherford and Bramley Hill

described by J. EVE (*Croydon and District*)

THE CROYDON AND DISTRICT SPASTIC SOCIETY maintains two Centres in Croydon, the Children's Centre at Rutherford, Melville Avenue, and the adult Work Centre at Bramley Hill.

In order to keep these centres running, the Society, in addition to grants which it gets from The Spastics Society and certain local authorities, has to raise something in the order of £10,000 each year—let alone money for extending its work. It was in connection with a week's collecting drive that this article was written for the local Press.

The Centres cater for spastics drawn not only from Croydon but a wide area around extending to Warlingham, Sutton, Banstead and Mitcham, and it is due to the generosity of the people in these areas that the work is able to be carried on.

At Rutherford, where children between the ages of two and sixteen receive training—thirty-one children attend.

The work done by the Matron, Miss

Ruth Stokes and her dedicated staff, includes physio- and speech therapy and is beyond praise. It is also hard, both physically and mentally but has rewards which few other jobs can offer.

The Work Centre at Bramley Hill takes on the school leavers whose future would be dim indeed without it. Opened in March, 1965, by H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, when sixteen spastics were employed, the Centre now has forty-four attending—just about the maximum which can be accommodated at present.

Great strides have been made under the manager, Mr. Michael Holmes and his staff, and work of high quality is turned out for a number of companies.

Mr. Holmes and assistant manager, Bert Strudwick, modify the machines and make special jigs to suit the particular handicaps of the spastics.

Mrs. Holmes describes the work of the Centre in these words, 'The spastics arrive by 10 a.m., many of them conveyed by

local authority transport, although some are able to drive their own Ministry of Health carriages, and work until 4 p.m.

'We have three work rooms, where a large variety of work is produced. In our machine room we press and drill radar and photo-electric cell components for 20th Century Electronics Ltd., a New Addington company. Last year we produced over 250,000 parts for this firm which makes many products for export.

'In our assembly room we assemble water pumps for the Ascot Water Heater Co., television components for Philips Electrical Industries, and packing for a firm that produces remote control mechanisms.

'Over 500,000 parts have been assembled and packed during the past year. We also made 195,000 wire coat hangers for the dry cleaning trade, and since starting production on these over two years ago have produced over 250,000 hangers.

(Continued overleaf)

a high standard of work, but more help is needed

'The handcraft room produces a wide range of basket ware—trays, stools, mat-weaving, etc., with an output of well over 1,000 articles every year.

'The standard of work is very high, and we are well able to maintain quality with quantity. We try, as much as possible to undertake as interesting and as big a variety of work as is practicable, to suit the various types of handicap.

'The policy of the Society is that the money received for work done is returned to the workers in the form of a monthly payment, and they are all paid the same fixed wage whatever their own individual output.

'Our workers are fully aware of the need for more money to help keep the centre running, and so they have formed a committee to raise money. They organised their third jumble sale in May. Profits from their Tuck Shop also go to help finance the cost of running the centre.

'The treatment room is put to good use during the week where about a dozen

patients are able to receive help from both physio- and speech therapy, and one day a week some of the girls are able to learn elementary cooking which they find useful for helping at home, etc.'

Of the work done for *20th Century Electronics*, Mr. H. W. King, Works manager has this to say, 'We would like to confirm our complete satisfaction with the pieceparts manufactured for us by the Society.

'These parts, carefully inspected and cleaned, form a vital part in the manufacture of precision built cathode ray tubes, which are in turn used for radar and other high accuracy measuring devices in ships, planes, computers, projection displays and flying spot scanners.

'We look forward to our continued co-operation with the Society and wish every success to its dedicated function in life'.

At this point it is well to note that—apart from the staff at the two centres—

all the administration and multifarious fund raising activities are carried out by voluntary helpers. No money goes on administration salaries.

It is in this field that the need is most urgent—more helpers are wanted badly. Help can take many forms, such as a couple of hours a week, escort duty on one of the ambulances or taking collecting boxes up a road once a year.

If any readers of *SPASTICS NEWS* feel that they can help in any way, the Society would be happy to hear from them. Please write to: *The Hon. Secretary, Croydon and District Spastics Society, Rutherford, Melville Avenue, Croydon (Tel: CRO 7560).*

Whatever form your help takes though—whether active assistance or a financial contribution—you can be quite sure that the maximum value is gained from it, and that it will play its full part in ensuring that the work of the Society is maintained and extended.



Two pictures showing the varied activities of the 47 trainees at Bramley Hill. As mentioned above, they organise regular jumble sales which have raised £134, and the proceeds of one of them will go towards a holiday in Jersey for 20 spastics. All the profit from the Canteen is handed over to the Centre too



(Photo: Austin Underwood)

In this photograph, Miss Faith Modlin demonstrates her Possum-controlled typewriter which she first started to use in late '65. Miss Modlin is one of the few spastics able to use the 'suck and blow' method of controlling her Possum (more usual controls are with foot or hand switch). The little box attached to the left of the table is an indicator panel which lights up a grid showing the letter of the alphabet she is selecting. This typewriter is Miss Modlin's only form of recorded communication. Particulars of the Possum machines can be got from my office at 12 Park Crescent or from the manufacturers, Mr. R. J. Maling, P.O.S.M., Research Project, 63 Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Compiled by
by
N. D. B. ELWES



This picture shows a series of units converting—by different methods—a standard wheelchair into an invalid tricycle. Mr. Jack Boydell brought the photograph back from the recent Exhibition in the Halle Aux Toiles in Rouen, France, attended by his son Dick (see p. 22). (L. to R.), an electric unit, a petrol motor unit, a manual unit, and an alternative motor unit. These units are fitted in place of the normal footrests, and demonstrate the interesting approach to development that they have in France. Enquiries for these devices should be addressed to:—GERARD LERAY, 60 Boulevard Voltaire, Paris 11eme, France.

HAND CONTROL FOR CAR

Mr. G. J. Aris-Bainbridge of the 'Modern-Aids' Company, has very kindly offered a Feeney-Johnson clutch aid to the Society. If anyone is interested in converting to hand control, they should contact this office.

NEAR MISS!

Series Ref.: E.B.3

1s. 3d. each with envelopes,
4½ in. by 8 in.

This card can be overprinted with names and addresses



Spastics Cards: ANOTHER BUMPER COLLECTION

SPASTICS CARDS LTD. is introducing a new and exciting range of Christmas cards, calendars, wrapping paper and parcel tags this year.

At the pinnacle of our range stands as always the Spastics printed cards, which continue to be one of our best-selling lines and last year we distributed almost 2,000,000 two-colour cards. The four-colour cards produced by the Birmingham Sheltered Workshop for the first time last year, were so successful that we are extending the range this year to three designs. The three new four-colour designs were prepared exclusively for us as were the designs in the 6d. range and means that designs printed by Spastics will continue to be the most widely distributed within our already considerable selection.

Extremely appealing are the really excellent designs in the Modern range with themes covering a variety of subjects including children, the Nativity, the festive spirit and, for the first time, a humorous card. These quality cards are balanced by superb Old Master reproductions more than moderately priced, providing six designs of excellent taste.

Remaining at the cheaper end of the range will be more proven best-sellers but all new designs, consisting of Winter Scenes, colourful Glitter cards, Nativity Scenes, Festive subjects, an embossed Candle theme, children's subjects and big value assortments. The children's selection has been introduced this year due to popular demand and with the appealing title of 'WONDERLAND' is certain to be in the forefront of sales.

Everybody will be impressed by the high quality 12-month-to-view K.1 Calen-

dar in which each month's view is striking colour photography makes charming views of English scenes really come alive.

Single view calendars, one a delightful study of children by the fireside entitled 'Bedtime Story' makes an easy-to-look-at calendar for the whole year and another entitled 'Boy with Kitten' provides an equally attractive study in full colour with all the year round appeal.

The range also includes a variety of Advent Calendars. On the one hand, we have four wonderfully appealing, glittering calendars with Father Christmas's Coach and Toy Train subjects and on the other, a mobile Advent Calendar, which gives a lively animated effect and is sure to keep the children occupied for some time. The Spastics Society was the first charity to introduce Advent Calendars into the range. Advent Calendars have been popular for a number of years on the Continent but took quite a long time to catch on over here. One of the difficulties was that people did not understand what they were!

We are very proud to announce the introduction of two SPECIALITY LINES. The first is Personal Stationery which can be obtained with or without the customer's name and address. This has just been tried out as a pilot scheme, and, since it was so successful, it has been introduced into the range. The second is a 'Paint a Picture' set for children, which can be framed when the pictures are complete. This will prove a very good present for children.

Write and ask for a FREE illustrated Christmas card brochure from Spastics Cards Ltd., Dept. SNL, The Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks. J.K.

Anthony Brown a Printer will be . . .

MR. R. F. BRACEWELL, the instructor at the Centre at Rectory Road, Worthing, has sent us some samples of cards and invitations printed by Anthony Brown—and very good samples they are too.

During the four years that Anthony has been attending day centres, namely, Hamilton House and Worthing, he has been engaged in stool-making, button packing, and lately, sub-contract work such as packing ointment and putting stickers on pamphlets. Anthony is very intelligent, and thus quick to learn. When a printing plant was introduced into the latter Centre, all were interested, but Anthony was chosen for first training in printing. He has only the use of one hand, so a special stand for the composing stick was made. He picked up the rudiments of type-setting wonderfully well, and after practice on a small machine he is now able to operate a larger machine, all with one hand. It will take time, as the craft of printing calls for care and precision, but Mr. Bracewell is confident that Anthony will become a printer.

EXTRA - LARGE NAPKINS,
Plastic Pants up to 60in. hips, Plastic Sheets, Mattress Covers, etc. Please send stamped, self-addressed foolscap envelope for Price Lists to: TALL ORDERS for Tall People and Invalids, Eastburn, Keighley, Yorkshire.

the Stars in their Courses . . .

News of the Stars
Organisation for Spastics

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

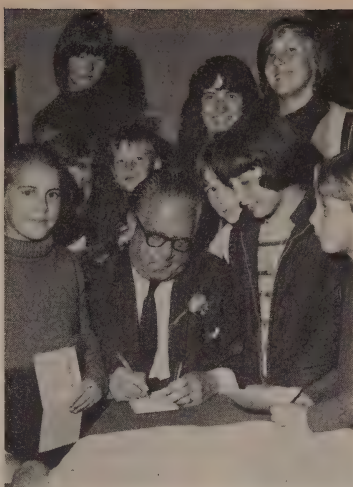
So far during 1967 thirty-five beacon push-overs have taken place. Eleven of these have been carried out by Jack Howarth who had an especially fine evening at the *Spindlenakers Arms* in Preston where he took £78 from the beacon and £9 from selling his autograph which he has given to the funds of the S.O.S. Other beacons were knocked over by Eddie Calvert, Violet Carson, Barney Colehan, Brian Close, Joan Regan, Bernard Youens, jockey Joe Sime, champion wrestlers, The Royal Brothers, and 'Miss Industry' of Rossendale Valley. A special knock-over was undertaken by Mrs. Bagley of Maltby, who is herself the mother of a spastic child at the *Red Lion*, Braithwell, Doncaster.

The highest collection in April was at the *Horse and Groom*, Heath Common, Wakefield, where £106 12s. 10d. was collected under the special guidance of Mr. Ken Attwood. These beacon activities during 1967 have covered Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Durham and I think we should say a special thank-you to all the artists who have given up so much of their time, quite often to travel long distances, to make these collections for spastics.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

I have been on two beacon visits with Diane Hart in the last month. Firstly, we visited the *Landor Hotel*, S.W.9, where a total of £166 12s. 4d. was collected for spastics by the landlord and his wife; the second visit was to the *General Havelock* at Woolwich where Diane knocked over a beacon and the total sum collected amounted to £222 10s. 9d. This, by the way, is the second time I have visited the *General Havelock* in a comparatively short time and they are to be congratulated on their achievement.

Leslie Crowther, on a Friday night at the end of April, officially opened a Works Centre for the Physically Handicapped in Hemel Hempstead. It was most appropriate that Leslie should have performed this ceremony as he had done so much towards organising the recent concert at the Pavilion in Hemel Hempstead which was held partly in aid of raising funds for the centre.



Jack Howarth, Albert Tatlock in 'Coronation Street', is always active in the cause of spastics. He is here seen signing autographs at a Fête, which is what he is often kind enough to do—apart from knocking over beacons

Sylvia Syms very kindly came with me to the *British Lion* in Hackney where she knocked over a beacon which brought the total sum raised by this house to £121 13s. 8d.

I attended a meeting of the **United Charities Fair Committee** who met to discuss the interim arrangements for the Fair which is going to take place at Grosvenor House, London, on 13th November, and a little bird has whispered to me that Harry Secombe will open the Fair if he is in London.

The congratulations of all the members of the S.O.S. go to **Mr. and Mrs. Chapleo**, the Warden and Matron of Wakes Hall on the birth of their daughter, Simone.

The plans for a **new laundry at Colwall Court** had recently been approved by Hy Hazell and I was delighted to go down

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cricket matches are to be played on behalf of the funds of the S.O.S. on Sunday, 18th June, at Dulwich Cricket Club with Leslie Crowther captaining the S.O.S. team and also at Ealing Cricket Club where David Jacobs will captain the S.O.S. team.

to Bexhill the other day to see the completed extension. I was pleased to learn from Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, the manager and his wife, who had just returned from a splendid holiday in Germany, that the bookings for the summer season are very satisfactory. They have been very fortunate in obtaining students to work as junior houseparents during the summer months.

THE SPASTIC SCHOOL CHILD AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Edited by

James Loring and
Anita Mason

Based on papers read at
the Oxford Educational
Conference in 1966

Some Press Comments

'... This is a picture of a most valuable (and expensive) social care for people who can give nothing back to society. It must alleviate the anxiety of many teachers who wonder what will happen to their most severely disabled pupils whom they have educated to be socially acceptable, but for whom modern life seems to have no place.'

'It is one of the most hopeful aspects of 20th Century Britain that a voluntary society is prepared to spend vast sums on people who may never speak or walk much, far less do a job, in order that their lives may be happier and fuller and their relations spared the worst anxiety on their future. . . .'

(The Teacher)

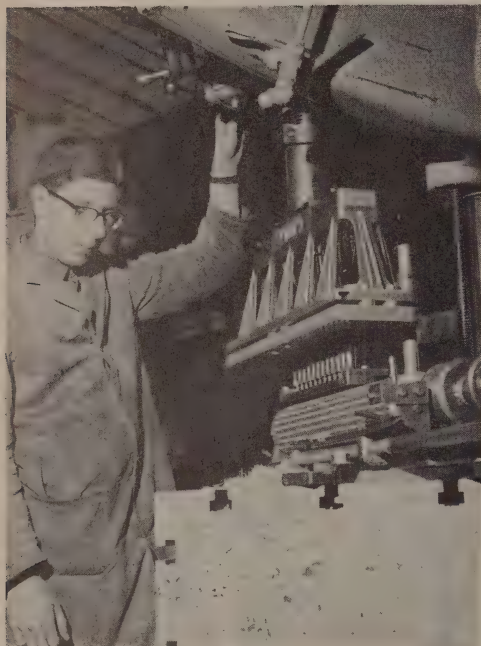
'... It is open to only one serious criticism; its title does scant justice to the vast professional scope of its texture. . . .'

(Teachers' World)

Published by The Spastics Society
and Wm. Heinemann Ltd., at 12s. 6d.

AT HOME—

Mr. Hawkins' Training Pays Off



Mr. Peter Hawkins at work

LACRE LTD., an engineering firm in St. Albans, employ a staff of 140, and one of them is Peter Hawkins, who lives at North Mimms, Hatfield, in Hertfordshire.

Peter joined the staff of Lacre Ltd. after thirteen months training at Sherrards Industrial Training Centre, in the engineering section. He specialised on a 36in. Richmond radial arm drilling machine and the Managing Director of Lacre, Mr. D. A. Thomas, seeing him at work on this machine, gave him a job, initially for a trial period.

He drills aluminium segments for radial brushes, using a multi-spindle drilling head on a drill similar to the one he operated at Sherrards.

In lay terms this means that Peter accurately drills holes in half a cylinder.

Into this half cylinder go nylon bristles.

Now the job of putting the bristles into the segments is done at Sherrards. Nine nylon bristles are put together by girl trainees and held there by a rubber band. There is no possibility of making a mistake because one too little and they all slip out, one too many and the band stretches. When this process is completed another section of girls inserts the bristles into the holes of the segment that Peter actually made. An error on either side would make the whole job inoperable.

Four of these segments make a complete brush, and these brushes go into vehicles that may sweep roads in England, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Hong Kong, and the West Indies.

Peter is a diplegic although he stands all day to do his work. He went to a

local school but found difficulty in getting a job until he had completed his training at Sherrards. He is intensely keen on sport and has a kick around with the local football club as well as joining in the practice cricket of the North Mimms Cricket Club.

In his spare time he helps out a local garage—just for the pleasure of it. He has always had an interest in cars and hopes soon to get an invalid one.

In the meantime he goes to work on his tricycle. At work he says: 'The other chaps treat me just like any normal person'. But when he was small, between the years of ten and thirteen, it wasn't quite so easy. It took him three years to accept other boys jeering: 'Look at that

fellow. He can't even ride a two-wheeler bike'.

But in the end, at a very early age, he stopped resenting his spastic handicap. He says now: 'You just have to accept life and do the best you can. Anyhow, I get on very well with people'.

Peter's father is a gardener for the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Maj.-Gen. Sir George Burns.

A great many spastics nowadays get jobs and hold them down successfully not realising that by their own efforts they are opening up new fields for other spastics. Now, because of Peter's work, which made Mr. Thomas realise that although spastics may work slower than non-handicapped people they are just as capable, a worthwhile contract has come.

Therese Appleby.

& ABROAD

Mr. Boydell Shows the French the Way

THE HIGHLIGHT of a Conference and Exhibition concerned with the disabled in Rouen, France, recently was the demonstration of P.O.S.M. equipment by Mr. Dick Boydell. His visit was sponsored by the Society.

It is perhaps worth mentioning again what these initials stand for: Patient Operated Selector Mechanism. Invented and developed by Mr. R. G. Maling at Aylesbury, this ingenious device which works typewriters, etc., by electronic remote-control, has led the world in its field, and Dick Boydell was the first spastic to make use of it—in fact, he has done more, he has helped in its development by his suggestions for improvements or modifications, two of which have been adopted.

He, accompanied by his father and mother, travelled by car and ferry to Rouen, where the XIth Congress of the National Interfederal Union for Private, Social and Health Work was taking place.

They stayed at the Hotel de la Poste, where they had a suite on the first floor; Dick was intrigued by his room, which, although quite small, was decorated in Louis XV style with matching wallpaper and curtain and counterpane fabrics. Mr. Jack Boydell, the Society's Publications Manager, speaks very highly of the kind-

ness of the hotel staff, who helped them in very way possible.

All sorts of equipment was on display at the Congress and the 'Possum' stand was featured on French television with a commentary by Dr. Seguy, of Paris, who had also seen Dick demonstrating at the 10th World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled at Wiesbaden, last September.

The Federation were so delighted with the success of his demonstrations, that Dick and his family were invited to pay a sightseeing visit to Paris on their way home at their expense, and they spent four interesting hours touring all the famous beauty-spots in that lovely city—despite some problems encountered with the one-way underpasses!

As an example of how much these international get-togethers assist in the work for the disabled, a French girl of 28, who lives in Rennes, is to have a foot-operated 'Possum' controlled typewriter, resulting from her contact with Dick Boydell. She lost the use of her arms through polio.

Dick himself, who has often contributed most interesting articles to SPASTICS NEWS is going to Oakwood shortly to study State Electronics in the hope that he will be able to make a more substantial contribution to the further development of the 'Possum' controls that have meant so much to him.

Hospital Equipment Exhibition

Dick will also be at Olympia with his Ham Radio set, for this Exhibition (5th-9th June), where the Society has been given a stand to demonstrate what we are doing to influence the design of equipment and fittings for the handicapped—particularly in the home.

Behaviour Problems amongst Children with Cerebral Palsy

by Maureen Oswin

REVIEWED BY

Leslie Gardner (*the Society's Principal Psychologist*)

Published by John Wright and Sons Ltd., Bristol. (1967) Price 15s.

THIS BOOK IS BASED partly on the author's observation of children in a Spastics Centre, but largely on her survey of books and articles, on an important subject, that of the behaviour problems of some C.P. children.

The author, who is an educationalist, lists the types of behaviour problems under two main headings: the 'outward' problems such as over-excitability, distractability, tempers and destructiveness; and the 'inward' problems of over-anxiety, excessive fears, moodiness, and so on. The list is a formidable one.

The Causes Discussed

The causes of these behaviour problems are then discussed and amongst the author's prolific quotations is a very apt one from Harry Bice, 'All children are frustrated; all feel inferior; but very few know the differing but persistent experience of inaccurate movement of athetoid, tremor and ataxic; the constant restriction of spastic and rigidity; the unlimited effort required of them and the meagre success'. The author develops the common sense view that since spastics have many handicaps, they are apt to feel frustrated and incompetent when they com-

pare themselves with ordinary children. These frustrations arise not only from the obvious physical handicaps, but from such difficulties as hearing losses, perceptual impairments, and difficulties the child has in controlling his attention and his emotional reactions. Other causes lie outside the child, such as the stresses at home, in treatment, in the school, and in the wider community's attitude to handicapped children.

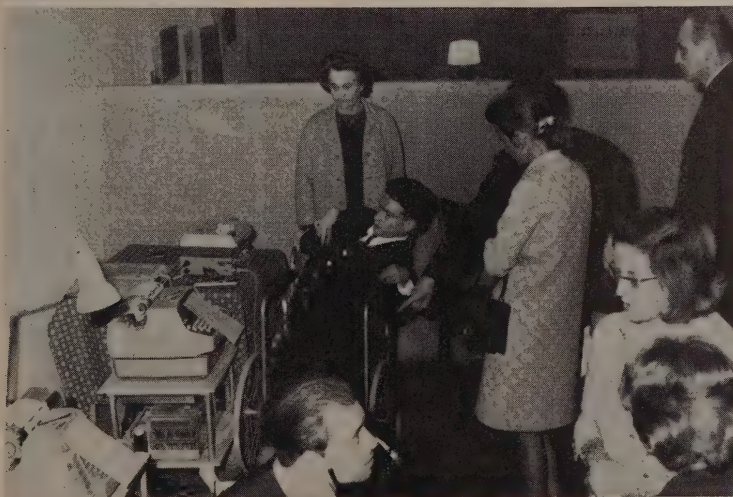
Finally, the author considers some solutions to the problems, and amongst these she includes the need for stable routines, consistent handling, close contact between the home and the school. Perhaps her most important contribution here is the discussion on the child's 'self-image', by which is meant his acceptance of himself as a person handicapped in some spheres of life. If the family and the school can help the child towards a realistic acceptance of his assets and liabilities, 'encouraging him to meet the stresses of social adaptation, and at the same time offering him the protection he so often needs from life's onslaughts' (Ella Floyer, 1955) then many behaviour problems can be minimised.

Maureen Oswin's book is short (90 pages) but comprehensive. Indeed many readers may find the vast number of quotations on so many aspects of cerebral palsy, and the long case histories, open to many interpretations and somewhat difficult to follow. Nevertheless the book deals with a topic on which there is little written work, and is to be commended for providing some basis for furthering our understanding of the behaviour problems of children with cerebral palsy.

Matron for Nursery Clinic

MATRON, S.R.N., required for Manchester and District Spastics Society Nursery Clinic; experience with young handicapped children desirable; admin. ability essential; salary related to Whitley scale; Superannuation scheme available. Please reply to:

The Chairman,
36 Parsonage Road,
Heaton Moor,
Stockport, Ches.



Dick Boydell's 'Possum' controlled typewriter and tape recorder being explained to Mme. D'Ornano, wife of Deputy D'Ornano, Mayor of Deauville, in the Exhibition at Rouen

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

GRAHAM ALLINSON from Halifax, is working locally as an apprentice dental technician.

KEVIN ASTLEY from Burnley, has a temporary job with a firm making figurines whilst awaiting another vacancy as an apprentice tool-maker.

MALCOLM BRABON from Marden, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working as a switchboard operator for a firm in Walthamstow.

JUNE CHECKETTS from Bristol, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed as a Tickopres operator by Messrs. E. S. & A. Robinson Ltd., at their Malago Works.

PHILIP CHEDZOY from Penarth, is working for his father.

CHARLES CLIFT from Ipswich, who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as a wood machinist for Messrs. Wrinch & Sons Ltd.

RUTH COMPTON from Finsbury Park, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed as a copy typist at a National Children's Home.

WILLIAM COOKE from Kirkby, has changed his job and is now working part-time as a messenger for a printing firm.

PHILIP COVE from East Dereham, who trained at Sherrards, is employed on general light engineering duties by a firm in Norwich.

PATRICIA DAVIES from Blaenavon, has been working for some time as a 'blower-out' at Saunders Valves Ltd. in Cwmbran.

CHRISTINE FULLER from Darlington, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed as a lift attendant by the Co-Operative Society in Darlington.

ALLEN GAMBLE from Dewsbury, who recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park, has commenced a trial period of employment with Messrs. J. C. M. Woodcrafts Ltd., Batley.

HERBERT HARRIS from Ashford, Kent, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, has changed his job and is now employed as a filing clerk by a firm of publishers in the City.

FRANK HAYWOOD from Eastbourne, who trained at Sherrards, is working locally as a capstan operator for the Bird Pneumatic Engineering Co.

ELIZABETH JENKINS from Caerphilly, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work locally as an assembly operator for the Elka Electric Co.

CAROLE LLOYD from Kirkby, has changed her job and is now employed on post duties for Messrs. John Dickinson & Co. Ltd.



(Courtesy: Hereford Evening News)

Considerable publicity accrued to the Northern M.E.V. on its visit to Hereford, when the Lord Lieutenant, Col. V. F. Maclean, Miss J. M. Whiting, the Mayor and Mayoress, Ald. and Mrs. Peter Carter, and the Rt. Rev. M. A. Hodson, the Bishop of Hereford, all inspected the Society's propaganda

DIANE MARGRIE from Upminster, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, after a course of Further Education at Dene Park, has now commenced work as a punch card operator for the London Electricity Board in Ilford.

JOHN MILES from Newport, I.O.W., who trained at Sherrards, has commenced a seasonal job as a kitchen porter at Warners Holiday Camp.

RAYMOND OWEN from Welwyn Garden City, who trained at Sherrards, is working as a switchboard operator for the Ministry of Pensions at Hatfield.

JEAN PAUL from Stepney, has changed her job and is now working in a supermarket in the Whitechapel Road.

KEVIN SENIOR from Dewsbury, who recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park, has returned to the firm of blanket manufacturers where he was formerly employed. He is now working in the warehouse.

ANDREW WOOD from Grantham, who is now living in London has commenced work as an assistant in the enquiries desk of a firm of chartered accountants in Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations on their marriages to:—

Ewa Duljasz and Brian Parkinson

Eileen Hall and Ken Chipper

Yvonne Murtagh and Patrick Ryan

Catherine Norfield and Roy Clark

Daphne Waldron and Mr. Leonard

M.E.V. ITINERARIES

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

Date	Location
29th May-3rd June	PLYMOUTH Derry's Cross
JUNE	
5th-10th	NEWQUAY Crantock Street Car Park
12th-17th	BATH Orange Grove OR Stall Street
19th-24th	BRISTOL Queen's Square
26th June-1st July	CHICHESTER Adcocks Garage, East Street
JULY	
3rd-8th	HORSHAM Carfax

NORTHERN CIRCUIT

30th May-2nd June	PONTEFRAC Butter Cross Market Place
JUNE	
3rd	To Huddersfield
5th-10th	HUDDERSFIELD St. George's Square
11th	To York
12th-17th	YORK St. George's Field
18th	To Bridlington
19th-24th	BRIDLINGTON Spa Promenade
26th	To Middlesbrough
27th-30th	MIDDLESBROUGH Car Park, Wilson Street
JULY	
1st	To Darlington

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Ronnie Allan is in charge of the Southern M.E.V. and Mr. P. Lacey is in charge of the Northern M.E.V.



CHESS FRIENDS

Dear Editor,

For someone physically handicapped making friends with normal outsiders is sometimes a difficulty! Friendships occur through a common interest. You might not be able to compete at football and cricket, but you can at chess.

If you are interested even slightly, here are some suggestions of how you may gain friends and learn to play a wonderful game.

The first objective for the handicapped

player should be to purchase a chess set he can handle (pocket sets are excellent) or if unable to use his hands well, to learn chess notation, the name and number of every square on the board. This is relatively easy to learn. Equipped with it, he can easily relate his move to his opponent, who can make his move for him. One of many books explaining notation simply is, the Rev. E. E. Cunningham's 'How to Play Chess' (Published by Routledge and Kegan Paul, price 4s.)

Probably the most popular method amongst disabled players of acquiring opponents, is through a postal chess club. 'Postal Chess', 'Chess', Sutton Coldfield, is one of a number of clubs who will for a small fee, enter him in their tournaments, which range conveniently in size and skill. With postal friendships developing, play is not as slow as might at first be imagined. Paul Keres, the Russian master learnt this way.

If not completely confined to his home, he may expand his quest for chess friends further, by joining his local chess club. Games are played weekly within the club, and he could represent his club against another. Some towns run small tournaments where players compete in their own homes.

In conclusion, he should never fear that because of his disability, he cannot attain a high standard of play. Many before him have succeeded.

Incidentally, the G.P.O. have been most helpful over a special attachment for my telephone, which makes it much easier to use.

They have installed an extension for

me to use incorporating a rest level receiver fixture, an extension switch enabling my receiver to remain permanently on the fixture, and a small box with a button which when pressed will dial the operator for me, who will dial the number I require.

This equipment is fixed to the side of a desk in our sitting-room. When reversed in beside it, I can operate it all with my elbow and have my hands free for writing.

I followed up some newspaper advertisements and asked my doctor to look out for some work for me, taking messages, but until I rang the Ministry of Labour, I was not getting far. A Disablement Resettlement Officer called on me, a few days later and said that after they received permission from my medical specialists, that I was fit to do this work, they would approach some firms for me. I have not heard from them for a week, but I will leave it a little longer before pestering them.

Now I can organise with my telephone, I accomplish more for the family, on a whole. Having to depend on others for so much, I get quite a kick out of seeing tasks completed through my motivation.

Yours sincerely, RORY GIBBS, 61 Southbow House, Duckmoor Rd., Ashton, Bristol 3.

DETERMINATION DOES IT

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a photograph of my daughter Barbara taken at her brother's wedding in January.

(Continued overleaf)



(Courtesy: Reading Chronicle)

FUND-RAISING FUN

(Above), Mine Hosts of the Beehive Inn, Upper Basildon, Berks, Harry and Peg Barlow, try out the daffodil-eating lark started by a customer. The first flower is free, but after that each one costs 3d. a go—for spastics' or samaritans' boxes!

(Right), Willie Mailey, Crewe Alexander goalkeeper, grew a beard for an advertising stunt, and had it shaved for Crewe Spastics Society by Miss Joan Wright. £30 was raised by people who tried to guess the time it would take to shave off. (Right time: 5 mins., 40 secs.)



(Courtesy: Crewe Chronicle)

Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)



Miss Barbara Blades made a charming and courageous bridesmaid at her brother's wedding (see letter: Determination does it.)

There is a little story behind this. Up to the age of sixteen Barbara had done very little walking on her own, then only by a walking aid, at the end of her school-days. On leaving school she went to Dene Park, there she tried another girl's elbow crutches and found she could manage them. That year her brother, Richard, started courting and she swore she was going to master them so she could be bridesmaid at his wedding and walk down the church aisle on her own. As you can see from the photo, this she did through determination. It proves it is never too late to try. She is now at the new Centre at Scunthorpe and very happy being able to get about by herself. She hasn't mastered the outside space on her own yet but it is something to be able to move about inside. It was her brother's wedding but it was her day, and we were proud of her.

Yours faithfully, F. BLADES, 46 Melbourne Road, Stamford, Lincs.

Companion-Help Wanted

Companion - Help to chair-bound spastic student required for next autumn in York. House on university grounds in beautiful setting, own room on ground floor, plenty of free time for own activities or study, or, alternatively, higher pay for some help with cooking. Students will relieve the companion. University supplies cleaners. For further particulars write:—Mrs. B. M. Hamilton, 4 Spring Lane, Heslington, York.

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ONE FINGER TYPIST

DR. BERNICE HAMILTON writes to tell us that her daughter, Joanna, has been successful in gaining an entrance to York University this autumn, to read English and Foreign Literature.

Only sixty or seventy places are granted out of several thousand applications, so this is something of a triumph for a chair-bound girl, who types her examination papers with one finger.

Joanna is at Oakwood at the moment, and was at Thomas Delarue. She has taken A levels in English, French and Spanish. So will anyone interested please scan the advertisement, left.

P. H. EDUCATION RESEARCH

Experienced teacher of physically handicapped children wishes to undertake a research project into the attitudes of sections of the community to special education. In particular he wishes to meet parents of handicapped children who would be interested to answer questionnaires or be interviewed in respect of his research project. The project is part of a course being undertaken in the education of the handicapped. Parents with handicapped children at school who would be willing to take part in the study are invited to write direct to Mr. Brian Maunder, A.C.P., Dip. Ed., 7 Talbot Road, Carshalton, Surrey. All information offered during the study will be treated in confidence.

LOCAL GROUP PROVISION

1 NORTH REGION

Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Spastics Society
 Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **WORTH**
 Darlington and District Spastics Society **H**
 Durham and District Spastics Society
 South Shields and District Spastics Society **C**
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society **CW**
 Tees-side Spastics Society **TE**
Regional Officer: To be appointed
 Office at 34/35 Saddler Street, Durham. Tel.: 2654. Being administered temporarily by S.R.O. (N.)

2 YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association
 Bradford and District Branch **R**
 Castleford and District Spastics Society
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
 Goole and District Spastics Society
 Halifax and District Spastics Society **W**
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **O**
 Hull and District Spastics Society **H**
 Leeds and District Spastics Society **W**
 Pontefract and District Spastics Association
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society **TOC**
 Sheffield and District Spastics Society **TC**
 York and District Spastics Group
Regional Officer:
 Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655.

3 MANCHESTER REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society **C**
 Blackburn and District Spastics Group **TC**
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society **TE**
 Bolton and District Spastics Society
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group **T**
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society
 Manchester and District Spastics Society **TCER**
 Oldham and District Spastics Society **OCT**
 Preston and District Spastics Group **OCT**
 Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society **RTEC**
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **TEOC**
 Urmston and District Group **TC**
 Wigan and District Spastics Society
Regional Officer:
 Mr. G. R. Christie, Room 481, 4th Floor St. James's Buildings, 89 Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088.
Regional Worker:
 Mrs. M. Moncaster, same address

4 MERSEYSIDE & NORTH WALES REGION

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TEOC**
 Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped Peoples' Society
 Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society **C**
 Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics **O**
 Chester and District Spastics Association **CTE**
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society

Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**
 Flint and District Spastics Society
 Montgomeryshire Spastics Society
 Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society **H**
 Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group
Regional Officer:
 Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester. Tel.: Chester 27127
Regional Social Worker:
 Miss E. Williams, same address

5 EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**
 Colville and District Spastics Society
 Derby and District Spastics Society **T**
 Grantham and District Friends of Spastics Group **R**
 Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society **TR**
 Leicester and District Spastics Society **TC**
 Lincoln and District Spastics Society **R**
 Loughbrough and District Spastics Society
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**
 Newark Area Spastics Society
 Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**
 Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**
 Scunthorpe and District Spastics Society **R**
 Stamford and District Spastics Society **R**
Regional Officer:
 Mr. T. H. O'Neill, Holland House, 43 Loughborough Road, Westbridgford, Nottingham. Tel.: 84357
Regional Social Worker:
 Mrs. M. Lane, same address

6 WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society **WOR**
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **TOC**
 Herefordshire Spastics Society
 Kidderminster and District Spastics Association
 Midland Spastic Association **TEOWC**
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **TO**
 Shropshire Spastics Society **H**
 Stafford and District Spastic Association **T**
 West Bromwich and District Spastics Society
 Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society
Regional Officer:
 Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, Vehicle and General House, Hurst St., Birmingham 5. Tel.: 643-3367
Regional Social Worker:
 Mr. M. Townsend, same address (apart from Birmingham and Worcestershire areas)
Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham and Worcestershire areas):
 Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. Tel.: Harborne 3182 and 2458

7 SOUTH WALES REGION (including Monmouthshire)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association **C**
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **CTO**
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society
 Monmouthshire Spastics Society

Pembrokeshire Spastics Society
 Pontypridd and District Spastics Society
 Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**
Regional Officer:
 Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289
Regional Social Worker:
 Mrs. P. A. Smith, same address

8 EAST ANGLIA REGION

Braintree and North-West Essex Spastics Society
 Cambridge and District Spastics Society
 Chelmsford and District Spastics Society
 Clacton and District Spastics Society
 Colchester and District Spastics Society
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society **TW**
 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics Society
 Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**
 Peterborough and District Spastics Group **O**
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **OC**
 Thurrock and District Spastics Society
Regional Officer:
 Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 61747
Regional Social Worker:
 Mrs. G. J. Thorn, 53A Head Street, Colchester. Tel.: 72374

9 NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
 Friends of Ponds Home
 Hatfield and District Spastics Society
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts Spastics Society
 Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics Society
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics Group **TEC**
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TOC**
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare Society **T**
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society **T**
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society **TEOC**
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group, Herts Spastics Society
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society **CT**
Regional Officer:
 Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road, North Watford. Tel.: 41565
Regional Social Workers:
 Miss U. M. Ballance, same address. Tel.: 41059
 Miss C. A. Cuming (part-time), Area Social Work Office, Castle Priory, Thames St., Wallingford, Berks. Tel.: Wallingford 2551

10 WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society
 Basingstoke and District Spastics Society
 Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **CTE**

Cheltenham and District Spastics Association **ETC**
 Gloucester and District Spastics Association **TE**
 Isle of Wight Spastics Society **W**
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**
 Salisbury and District Spastics Association **TOWCE**
 Southampton and District Spastics Association **H**
 Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**
 Winchester and District Spastics Society
Regional Officer:
 Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury
 Tel.: 4521
Regional Social Worker:
 Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address

11 WEST REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society **T**
 Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association **OW**
 Bristol Spastics Association **H**
 Cornish Spastics Society **T**
 Exeter and Torbay Districts Spastics Society **COETW**
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **TR**
 Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **TR**
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society
Regional Officer:
 Mr. P. J. H. Pope, St. John House, Staple-
 grove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678
Regional Social Worker:
 Miss H. M. Day, c/o Bristol Work Centre,
 Dovercourt Road, Bristol 7. Tel.: 693695
 Mrs. S. N. Fox (part-time), St. John House,
 Staplegrave Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.:
 81678

12 LONDON REGION

Regional Officer:
 (North of the Thames)
 Mr. N. J. Goldfrap, 28 Fitzroy Sq., London,
 W.1. Tel.: Euston 2436
 Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**
 East London Spastics Society **TO**
 Epping Forest and District Branch **O**
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics Association **T**
 North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics **W**
 North-West London Spastics Society **W**
 South-West Middlesex Group
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society
 Friends of the Centre for Spastic Children

Regional Officer:
 (South of the Thames)
 Mr. Alan Henderson, 28 Fitzroy Sq., London,
 W.1. Tel.: Euston 2436

Croydon and District Spastics Society **TEWC**
 North Surrey Group **W**
 North-West Kent Spastics Group **WO**
 South-East London Group **H**
 South London Group
 South-West London and District Group **W**
 West Kent Spastics Society

13 SOUTH-EAST REGION

Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Soc. **OC**
 Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group **W**
 Central Surrey Group **C**
 East Sussex Group **H**
 Folkestone Group **OT**
 Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic Society **CT**
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group
 Medway Towns Branch

North Hants and West Surrey Group **TECO**
 North-West Surrey Group **TEOC**
 South-East Surrey Group **TOC**
 South-West Surrey Group **TEOC**
 Thanet Group **C**
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group
 West Sussex Spastics Group
 Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics Society **W**
Regional Officer: To be appointed
 Office at 29b Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey.
 Tel.: Redhill 63944 and 62250. Being adminis-
 tered temporarily by S.R.O. (E.)
Regional Social Workers:
 Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address
 Miss J. M. Goldie (part-time), same address

Jersey Spastics Society
 Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic Development (Inc.)

Chief Regional Office:
 Mr. A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A.

Schools and Centres Secretary:
 Mrs. C. A. Clifton

Social Work and Employment Secretary:
 Miss M. R. Morgan, M.B.E.

Acting Projects Secretary:
 Mr. M. R. H. Stopford
 All at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

Senior Regional Officer (North):
 Group-Capt. W. A. L. Davis, C.B.E., D.F.C.,
 A.F.C., c/o Yorkshire Office

Senior Regional Officer (West):
 Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, 43 Bridge St., Taunton,
 Somerset. Tel.: Taunton 82489

Senior Regional Officer (East):
 Brig. C. V. Halden, B.A., Harrold House,
 Harrold, Beds. Harrold 257

KEY TO LOCAL GROUPS

T—Treatment Available
E—Education
O—Occupational Centre
W—Work Centre
H—Holiday Home
C—Child Care
R—Residential Centre

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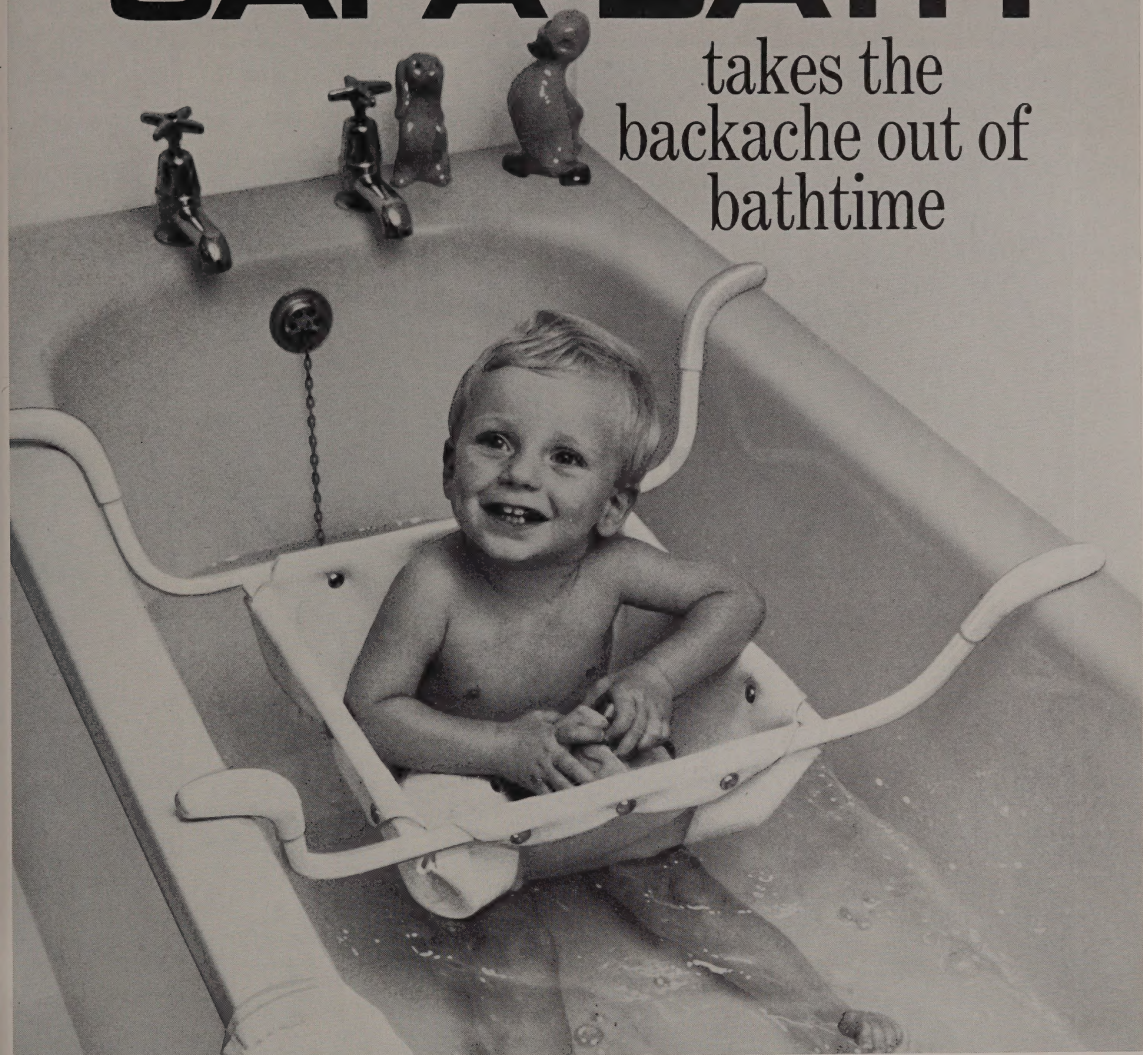
Dr. Donald Blair, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., Vice-President of the Society.
 Mr. Arthur Chisnall, Organiser, Eel Pie Island Jazz Club.
 Lady Forsdyke, M.T., Horton Hospital.
 Mr. Louis Judge, Valance School for Physically Handicapped Children.
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WINNING POSTER DESIGN



(Courtesy: Worthing Gazette)

The Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society, of which Miss J. Cartter (seen above) is the active vice-chairman, organised a poster design competition which was won by eleven-year-old, Janet Martyn, seen proudly holding her drawing. The Mayor of Worthing, Alderman E. J. W. Cuer presented her with a two guinea book token as a prize.